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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 L-03 H-01 HA-05 CA-01 SS-15
NSC-05 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
ICA-11 SP-02 COME-00 /081 W
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P 071613Z JUL 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4057
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15855

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, BGEN, UR
SUBJECT: CRAWFORD ARREST: I-H MEETINGS WITH MFT, FTO'S
AND RELATED EVENTS

REF: MOSCOW 15456

1. F. JAY CRAWFORD TOLD COMATT JULY 6 THAT BRIAN REARDON HAD HOSTED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE PROTOCOL CHIEF RAKHMANIN AND LATTER'S DEPUTY SHPINKOV FOR LUNCH IN INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER'S MOSCOW OFFICE ON SAME DAY TO DISCUSS CRAWFORD AFFAIR. ACCORDING TO CRAWFORD, WHO WAS NOT PRESENT AT LUNCHEON PER REARDON'S REQUEST, REARDON WAS TO HAVE QUERIED HIS SOVIET GUESTS ON WHAT SUPPORT FIRM COULD EXPECT FROM MFT IN SECURING CRAWFORD'S RELEASE FROM CHARGES. REARDON REPORTEDLY TOLD CRAWFORD LATER, IN BRIEFEST TERMS, THAT SHPINKOV HAD RESPONDED FOR PAIR BY NOTING THAT NOT MUCH COULD BE EXPECTED SO LONG AS "YOU (SIC) HOLD TWO OF OURS." CRAWFORD SAID THAT REARDON
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WOULD NOT GO INTO DETAIL ON SUBSTANCE OF REST OF LUNCHEON CONVERSATION. (COMMENT: AS WE REPORTED EARLIER, CRAWFORD IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNEASY WITH I-H'S APPROACH TO HIS PLIGHT. REARDON HAS NOT INFORMED US DIRECTLY OF WHAT WENT ON DURING MEETING, ALTHOUGH HE HAD MENTIONED TO COMATT ON JULY 3 HIS PLAN TO MEET SOON WITH RAKHMANIN OVER

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LUNCH. AT THAT TIME, REARDON, SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY, INTIMATED TO COMATT THAT I-H WAS CONSIDERING PLAYING A STRONGER CARD, BUT HE REFUSED TO DIVULGE WHAT HE (OR HIS FIRM) HAD IN MIND. END COMMENT.)

2. CRAWFORD ALSO RELATED FACT THAT HE HAD ACCOMPANIED REARDON MORNING OF JULY 6 TO MEETING WITH DEPUTY CHAIRMAN A. A. BUROV AT FTO TRAKTOROEKSPORT FOR CONTINUING COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS ON WHAT CRAWFORD DESCRIBED AS A POSSIBLE SMALL ORDER FOR I-H LOADERS. AS MEETING BEGAN, CRAWFORD SAID THAT BUROV PASSED A PIECE OF PAPER CONTAINING NAME OF DAUGHTER OF BELARUS MACHINERY, INC.'S, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, MONAYENKO, AND REQUESTED THAT I-H SUPPORT GIRL'S VISA APPLICATION SO THAT SHE COULD TRAVEL BY JULY 7 TO JOIN HER FATHER FOR SUMMER. CRAWFORD SAID HE WAS STUNNED WHEN REARDON DID NOT REFUSE TO LOOK INTO MATTER FOR BUROV. (COMMENT: EMBASSY ISSUED VISA TO MONAYENKOVO JULY 6 PER AUTHORIZATION STATE 169485. END COMMENT.)

3. CRAWFORD SAID HE HAD BEEN PRESENT IN OFFICE WHEN CALL CAME IN JULY 6 FROM I-H HEADQUARTERS IN CHICAGO REPORTING THAT FIRM HAD PUT ARM ON "RAG SHOP NEXT DOOR" TO STOP PRINTING SO MANY STORIES ON CRAWFORD AFFAIR. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT I-H HEADQUARTERS AND CHICAGO TRIBUNE OFFICES ARE LOCATED NEXT TO EACH OTHER ON

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MICHIGAN AVENUE IN CHICAGO.) TOON

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